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HARRIS LAWRENCE T
77 MONTEVIDEO 5713

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EXCISE

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SICSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5435

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO USCINCSO GUARRY HGTS 02 PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUN, MILL, UY

SUBJ: THIRD AND FOREFULLY FINAL CHAPTER OF THE MCAULIFFE SAGA

USIA FOR IIA, ICP/M

REF: (A) MONTEVIDEO 5702 (B) MONTEVIDEO 5688

1. SUMMARY. STATEMENTS REPORTED PARA 15 REPTEL (A)
BY ARMY CINC VADORA AND AIR FORCE CINC PALADINI
EFFECTIVELY REFUTING AND DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES
FROM PRESS DISTORTIONS OF GENERAL MC AULIFFE'S STATE-
MENT RECEIVED MIXED PLAY IN MONTEVIDEO DAILIES
DECEMBER 15. INDEPENDENT "EL DIA" PUBLISHED LEAD
EDITORIAL ON THE CONTROVERSY WHICH ATTACKED VERY
SERIOUS DENUNCIATIONS AND IMPRUDENT SENSATIONALISM

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OF OTHER NEWSPAPERS, POINTING OUT THAT THESE
STORIES DID NOT AGREE WITH WHAT GENERAL MC AULIFFE HAD
SAID AT PRESS CONFERENCE. EDITORIAL ALSO SUPPORTED
SOME OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES
AND QUESTION THAT USG WOULD EVER USE ILLEGITIMATE
PRESSURE TO TRY TO MAKE THEM A REALITY. WE CONSIDER
STATEMENTS BY TWO CINCS TO BE A GOOD AND SUFFICIENT
REBUTTAL WHICH SHOULD PUT AN END TO THE DISTORTIONS
IN THE PRESS AND THEREFORE PLAN TO MAKE NO PUBLIC
RELEASE OF MC AULIFFE'S LUNCHEON STATEMENT

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY L. H. H. DATE 1/7/78

PORTIONS DENIED AS INDICATED

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END SUMMARY.

2. INDEPENDENT "EL DIA", WHICH HAD NOT DISTORTED MC AULIFFE STATEMENTS, PUBLISHED STATEMENTS OF TWO CINCS ON FRONT PAGE UNDER HEADLINE "CLARIFICATION FROM THE COMMANDERS ON GENERAL MC AULIFFE'S STATEMENTS". PRO-GOVERNMENT "EL PAIS", WHICH HAD DISTORTED THE MOST, PLAYED STORY ON ITS BACK OP-ED PAGE UNDER SMALL HEADING: "MC AULIFFE MISSION: LACONIC STATEMENTS OF COMMANDERS". "EL PAIS" ALSO CONVENIENTLY OMITTED PORTION OF PALATINI STATEMENT, "ABSOLUTELY NOT, THERE IS NOTHING LIKE THAT." DIRECTED AT ALLEGED PENTAGON ATTEMPT TO MANIPULATE ARMED FORCES. NATIONALISTIC, PRO-MILITARY "LA MANANA" WHOSE DISTORTED STORY HAD BEEN ACCOMPANIED BY JINGCISTIC EDITORIAL DENOUNCING ALLEGED INTERVENTION, CARRIED NO REPORT ON STATEMENTS OF CINCS.

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3. IN ADDITION, AND MORE SIGNIFICANTLY, "EL DIA" DECEMBER 15 PUBLISHED ITS LEAD EDITORIAL ON THE CONTROVERSY AND SPECIFICALLY ATTACKED "MUNDO COLOR" FOR ITS "SURPRISING" COVERAGE OF THE MC-AULIFFE STORY. UNDER THE HEADING, "VERY SERIOUS DENUNCIATION AND IMPUDENT SENSATIONALISM", "EL DIA" STATED IN PART: (BEGIN EXCERPTS) FROM UNIDENTIFIED SOURCES, SAID TO BE OFFICIAL. IN A STORY PHRASED IN THE CONDITIONAL TENSE, MOST OF THE MONTEVIDEO PAPERS HAVE MADE AN EXTREMELY SERIOUS DENUNCIATION: THE INTERVENTION OF THE PENTAGON IN OUR INTERNAL AFFAIRS.....WHAT "MUNDO COLOR" REPORTED IN ITS BOLD HEADLINES DOES NOT AGREE WITH THE CONDITIONAL TENSE IN WHICH THE STORY WAS WRITTEN, NOR WITH WHAT THE AMERICAN HIGH OFFICIAL SAID AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE. BUT ASIDE FROM THE CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN THE 'UN-IDENTIFIED STATEMENTS' AND THE CATEGORICAL REMARKS

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5436

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USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO CINCSO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES PRIORITY

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WIA FOR ILA, IOP/M

BY LT. GEN. MC AUGHER THE IMPORTANT FACT IS THE
DENUNCIATION ITSELF. SUCH A SERIOUS DENUNCIATION SHOULD NOT
HAVE BEEN BASED ON A SEMI-OFFICIAL STATEMENT.
IT IS WELL KNOWN THAT HE AGREES WITH SOME OF THE PRINCIPLES
OF THE NEW AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION. HOW COULD IT NOT BE SO
SINCE OUR COUNTRY WAS ONE OF THE FIRST NATIONS IN THE WORLD
THAT WANTED TO GUARANTEE FOREVER AND EVERYWHERE THE FULL
ENFORCEMENT OF RIGHTS WHICH ALLOW A DIGNIFIED EXISTENCE?
THESE ARE PRINCIPLES WHICH WERE SUPPORTED BY THE REPUBLIC
EVEN, MANY TIMES, AGAINST THE POLICIES OF AMERICAN
ADMINISTRATIONS AND THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY, TODAY THE
MAJORITY PARTY IN CONGRESS. UNQUOTE.

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THE EDITORIAL CONCLUDES WITH THE COMMENTARY THAT "IT IS VERY
DIFFICULT TO HONESTLY BELIEVE THAT A GREAT NATION WHICH TRIES
TO DEFEND THE PRINCIPLE OF LIVING TOGETHER IN PEACE WOULD
UTILIZE ILLEGITIMATE PRESSURE TO TRY TO MAKE IT A REALITY.
THE END, ALTHOUGH IT MIGHT BE GOOD, WOULD NOT JUSTIFY THE MEANS.
THE LONG FRIENDSHIP AND THE PERMANENT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN OUR COUNTRY AND THE UNITED STATES MAKES THIS
AN IMPERATIVE.

IN A POSTSCRIPT TO THE EDITORIAL, "EL DIA" ADDED:
"AFTER WRITING THE ABOVE, WE HAVE LEARNED OF THE COMMENTS
OF HIGH MILITARY OFFICERS ON THIS ISSUE WHICH GIVE A NEW
EVALUATION TO THE EVENTS, COMPLETELY DIFFERENT FROM THAT
WHICH WAS ALLUDED TO IN THE PRESS. ALL OF WHICH CONFIRMS
OUR POSITION." (END OF EXCERPTS)

4. COMMENT: THE STATEMENTS BY TWO OF THE THREE SENIOR
MILITARY CHIEFS, INCLUDING THE MOST IMPORTANT ARMY CINC,

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EFFECTIVELY DISASSOCIATING THEMSELVES FROM THE DISPOSITIONS
CAUTIONS ARE HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT. WE CONSIDER THEM A GOOD AND
SUFFICIENT REASON FOR NOT TO THE
DISPOSITION IN THE PRESS. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE PLAN TO
MAKE NO RELEASE OF THE NO ARTISTE LUNCHON STATEMENT, BUT WILL
CONTINUE DISCREETLY TO SHOW TO INTERESTED DRUGGANS
AND TO VERY SELECTIVELY GIVE COPIES TO HIGH LEVEL GOV
MILITARY AND CIVILIAN OFFICIALS WITH WHOM WE DISCUSS IT.
ALTHOUGH THE PROGRAMS SURROUNDING THE NO ARTISTE
STATEMENT SEEMS TO BE OF NO USE AND THE DISPOSITIONS RETURNED
WE MAY BE IN FOR MORE OF THE SAME IN THE WEEKS AHEAD.

77 NOVEMBER 1973
HARRIS LAWRENCE J

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